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Since my views hold good also for the animal body, it gave me great satisfaction when MELTZER and AUER⁵ published recently a series of wonderful experiments on the living animal, from which they inferred that "the continuation of the studies led up finally to the discovery that *calcium is rather the strongest antagonist to the inhibitory effects of magnesium.*" This is exactly what I have claimed for plants!—OSCAR LOEW, *Munich, Germany.*

FORMATION OF ADVENTITIOUS ROOTS IN THE UMBRELLA CHINA TREE

(WITH TWO FIGURES)

A curious case of "self-eating" may occasionally be found in hollow and decaying trunks of the umbrella China tree (*Melia Azedarach umbra-*



FIG. 1

FIG. 2

culifera). During a heavy storm in July, 1908, several large trees of this kind were blown down, the breaks occurring at the point where the main

⁵ Amer. Jour. Physiol. 21:403. May 1908. Communication from the Rockefeller Institute, New York. These brilliant investigations obscure all others made with such salts on animals.

trunk had been sawed off many years previously. Adventitious sprouts had grown out at the top and around the edges of the stump, and had formed a complete circle of stout limbs. In time these limbs will completely heal over the cut surface so as almost to obliterate the wound. The wood of the stump soon decays, however, and into this decaying mass there project dense mats of adventitious roots which spring from the point of origin of the limbs. These roots descend through the decaying materials and often, upon reaching the harder, less decayed wood of the lower part of the stump, turn sharply back and grow upward even to the point of origin. Fine fibrous roots may be found working down into the harder portions. *Fig. 1* shows a portion of a tree which had broken off about six feet from the ground; the roots shown are about two feet long. *Fig. 2* shows a limb that had broken off from a stump. The bent roots in the center were originally so sharply bent as to bring the parts parallel, but were separated for photographing. It will also be seen from this photograph that adventitious roots may arise from any part of the inner wall of the decaying stump.—O. M. BALL, *College Station, Texas*.